

assures our farmers of permanent bankruptcy protection to keep their farms. In the meantime, we should quickly pass this legislation and end another lapse in this basic bankruptcy protection for our family farmers.

HAWAII AND SHIPPING CONTAINER SECURITY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to address the continued need to secure our Nation's shipping containers.

The U.S. economy is heavily dependent on the normal flow of commerce and the security of our Nation's ports. Over the past 6 years, commercial cargo entering America's ports has nearly doubled. About 7 million shipping containers arrive in U.S. seaports each year.

The Department of Homeland Security recently proposed new regulations to improve shipping container security by requiring advance information in electronic format for cargo entering and exiting the United States.

In my view, the Department needs to do more. To improve container security we must ensure that shipping container security programs are effective by having the right personnel and the right management strategies in place.

Currently the Customs Service administers two container security programs within the Department of Homeland Security: the container security initiative, known as CSI, and the customs-trade partnership against terrorism, or C-TPAT. By 2004, the Department plans to increase the funding for CSI fourteenfold and for C-TPAT by 50 percent.

A July 2003 General Accounting Office, GAO, review on container security programs raises concerns that the Customs Service has not taken the steps required to ensure the long-term success and accountability of CSI and C-TPAT. According to the GAO report, Customs has reached a critical point in the management of CSI and C-TPAT and must develop plans to address workforce needs to ensure the long-term success of these programs.

As a Senator from a State reliant on shipped products, I understand the importance of container security. My State is uniquely vulnerable to disruptions in the normal flow of commerce. In fact, 98 percent of the goods imported into Hawaii are transported by sea.

Honolulu Harbor received more than 1 million tons of food and farm products and over 2 million tons of manufactured goods per year. In 2002, Honolulu received 1,300 foreign ships and about 300,000 containers. Over 8 million tons of these goods arrive at Honolulu Harbor, which receives one-half of all cargo brought into the State.

This is why I support GAO's recommendation that Customs develop strategic plans that clearly identify the objectives the programs are intended to achieve and to enhance performance measures.

I urge the Department of Homeland Security to implement GAO's recommendation by developing workforce plans and strategies to strengthen container security and to attract, train, and retain workers within CSI and C-TPAT. This is no small challenge. By the end of 2004, Customs expects to hire 120 staff for CSI and increase staffing levels in C-TPAT by fifteenfold. Moreover, it is estimated that 46 percent of the Customs workforce will be eligible to retire by 2008.

Now more than ever, agencies must have the plans and strategies in place to recruit personnel with the skills necessary to protect our country. As the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century concluded in 2001:

... [T]he maintenance of American power in the world depends upon the quality of U.S. government personnel, civil and military, at all levels ... The U.S. faces a broader range of national security challenges today, requiring policy analysts and intelligence personnel with expertise in more countries, regions, and issues.

To meet these national security challenges, workforce and strategic planning for CSI and C-TPAT deserve the full attention of the Department of Homeland Security.

Such attention is critical for a State like Hawaii that is uniquely dependent on shipping of goods. The potential consequences of a terrorist incident using a shipping container are, in the words of Customs Service Commissioner Bonner, "... profound ... no ships would be allowed to unload at U.S. ports after such an event."

I look forward to working with the Department to ensure that the foundation is in place for CSI and C-TPAT to secure shipping containers over the longterm.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MICHAEL DEUEL

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a young man from my State who selflessly performed as his country asked. While doing so Army SP Michael R. Deuel was killed in Iraq on June 18 while on guard duty at a propane distribution center.

Michael was a good soldier and served proudly in the 325th Infantry Regiment's 82nd Airborne Division. He comes from a family of military tradition that he carried with him. It was the Air Force that brought the Deuel family to Wyoming where both parents served on Wyoming's own F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

It is particularly important that at a time like this, as we address legislation and we prepare to adjourn for the month of August and return to our homes to meet with constituents that we take time to remember soldiers such as Specialist Deuel. These are the brave souls who give everything to secure the peace.

Michael joined the Army so he could learn to parachute. Eventually he wanted to become a smoke jumper and fight forest fires. This too is a particularly dangerous job, and as we see through this year's fire season it is critical to the survival of our towns and rural communities in the West. Michael's decision to be in the army and his goals for life after the Army paint a picture of a young man committed to his country and his fellow Americans.

As operations continue in Iraq and the noose tightens around the last remnants of the regime, I offer America's thanks to Michael Deuel and to his family. It takes a special person to answer the call to public service. It is challenging and dangerous. America remains strong and steadfast because of the courage that they have shown in the face of danger.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice. May God bless SP Michael Deuel of the 82nd Airborne Division and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of Karen Tandy's nomination to be Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. I am pleased that the Senate confirmed her nomination last night.

I had an opportunity to meet with Ms. Tandy a few weeks ago in my office and I was quite impressed by her. With more than a quarter century of experience in drug enforcement, I believe that she is not only well qualified to be the DEA Administrator, but that she will also bring a passion for drug policy to the job.

Both in her work as a prosecutor and in leadership positions at the Justice Department, Ms. Tandy's focus has been on drug trafficking, money laundering and asset forfeiture. She has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Virginia and Washington State, Chief of Litigation in the Asset Forfeiture Office and Deputy Chief of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Section at Main Justice. For the past 4 years she has served as Associate Deputy Attorney General and the Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program. During that time she has focused the OCDETF program and provided tremendous leadership.

Her nomination has the endorsement of a number of well-respected organizations including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Troopers Association, the Association of Former Narcotics Agents, the National Narcotics Officers' Association Coalition, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the County Executives of America, and the International Union of Police Associations.

Ms. Tandy comes to the DEA at a time when both Federal and State resources for drug investigations are shrinking. I believe that she will have a difficult time fighting for scarce resources and keeping the drug issue on the national agenda.